-- 34. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to open said protection cover when said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state. --.

-- 35. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover when the image pickup apparatus comes out of said exterior connection state. --.

-- 36. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to open said protection cover in response to input of a signal related to starting of the image pickup from said exterior device. --.

-- 37. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover in response to input of a signal related to finishing of the image pickup from said exterior device. --.

-- 38. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover in response to input of a signal related to finishing of the image pickup from said exterior device. --.

-- 39. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said detection device detects whether or not the signal related to the finishing of the image pickup is input during a predetermined time after the finish of the image pickup operation. --.

-- 40. An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein when said signal related to the finishing of the image pickup is not inputted during the predetermined time, said detecting device inhibits said protection cover operation device from closing said protection cover and continues the image pickup

operation. --.

-- 41. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state by an input of a signal indicating the connection with said exterior device. --.

-- 42. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection means detects said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating electrical connection with said exterior device. --.

-- 43. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating mechanical connection with said exterior device. --.

-- 44. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating disconnection with said exterior device. --.

-- 45. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of said exterior connection state by a signal indicating electrical disconnection with said exterior device. --.

-- 46. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating mechanical disconnection with said exterior device. --.

-- 47. An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a signal processing device which converts an optical object picked up by said image pickup optical system into an electrical signal for

indicating said optical object. --.

-- 48. An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a signal processing device which converts an optical object picked up by said image pickup optical system into a signal for recording said optical object. --.

-- 49. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said exterior device includes a computer. --.

-- 50. An image pickup apparatus functionally connectable to an exterior device, comprising:

(A) a protection cover operation device which operates a closable and openable protection cover for protecting an image pickup optical system; and

(B) a detection device which detects whether or not a signal related to image pickup is inputted from a functionally connected exterior device, said detection device deciding the operation of said protection cover operation device according to result of the detection. --.

-- 51. An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to open said protection cover by the detection of input of a signal related to starting of the image pickup from said exterior device. --.

-- 52. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover by the detection of input of a signal related to finishing of the image pickup. --.

-- 53. An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover by the detection of input of a signal related to finishing of the image pickup. --.

-- 54. An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said detection device detects whether or not

the signal related to the finishing of the image pickup is inputted during a predetermined time after the finish of the image pickup operation. --.

-- 55. An apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when said signal related to the finishing of the image pickup is not inputted during the predetermined time, said detection device inhibits said protection cover operation device from closing said protection cover and continues the image pickup operation. --.

-- 56. An apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising a signal processing device which converts an optical object picked up by said image pickup optical system into an electrical signal for indicating said optical object. --.

-- 57. An apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising a signal processing device which converts an optical object picked up by said image pickup optical system into a signal for recording said optical object. --.

-- 58. An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said exterior device includes a computer. --.

-- 59. A method for controlling an image pickup apparatus having a protection cover operation device which operates a closable and openable protection cover which protects an image pickup optical system, comprising the steps of

detecting whether or not said image pickup apparatus is in an exterior connection state in which said apparatus is functionally connectable to an exterior device, and

deciding the operation of said protection cover operation device according to result of the detection. --.

-- 60. A method for controlling an image pickup apparatus having a protection cover operation